

de of the Curia. From its military vassals the Crown exacted homage and fidelity, military service, attendance at court, castle-guard, *fodrum* or sustenance, aids and reliefs. Military service was stringently exacted; the normal number of days exacted was forty, but some vassals owed two months' service in the royal host in the year.

As well as guarding the royal castles and watching the coasts, the holders of fiefs had frequently to aid in furnishing and equipping the galleys which made up the powerful navy of the kingdom. As in the monarchy of Henry I. and his grandson in England, castles might not be erected without the royal consent.

From their own tenants the great lords claimed similar duties. They practised the three rights of wardship, escheat, and confiscation for treason, exacted military and other service, and held baronial courts. Great powers were still left to them, but the Crown both protected the under-vassal against the lord and made him answerable to the public law; thus if the seigneur broke certain conditions the vassal should then *ipso facto* hold directly of the King; on the other hand the overlord could not protect his vassal in a crime

touching the royal majesty. The powers exercised by the justiciars, the encouragement of appeals from towns and under-vassals, the reservation of cases of treason all went to diminish the criminal jurisdiction of the barons. We shall return again to the great barons of the